was meant for the purchase of sophisticated equipment by the DOT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) It is expected that some amount out of the World Bank loan of $345 million for the 9th Telecom Project will remain unutilised. Methods for utilising the balance amount are under discussion with the Department of Telecommunications.

(d) Under-utilisation of the World Bank loan for this project is due to lower bid prices than originally estimated and the domestic procurement of certain items since developed indigenously.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, is it a fact... (*Interruptions*) Sir, is it a fact that the Govenrment is going ahead with the setting up of a high-powered Telecom Commission to take charge of all the matters relating to telecomunications in the country? (*Interruptions*) Is it also a fact that the Department of Telecommunications has not been able to utilise the full amount of World Bank loan and had to surrender 72 million dollars out of 345 million dollars of World Bank loan?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: I would like to know whether the surrender of this huge amount has been due to lack of coordination between the D.O.T., D.O.E. and the Ministry of Finance.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Floating of NRI Bonds by SBI

*301. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the financial results derived through the floating of NRI Bonds by the State Bank of India;

(b) how do these results compare with (i) the Foreign Currency Non-Resident Deposit Scheme and (ii) the Non-Resident Rupees Account Scheme; and

(c) whether the poor performance under the NRI Bond Scheme is due to the fact that these Bonds could not be repatriated in foreign currency, although the interest rate offered was higher by one per cent than that on three year FCNR Deposit Scheme; if so, what are the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Upto 8th March, 1989, a sum of US $87.613 million equivalent to Rs. 131.90 crores has been credited to the Reserve Bank of India Account with Federal Reserve Bank, New York.

(b) and (c) It would not be appropriate to compare NRI Bonds with FCNR and NRE Schemes as the latter have a totally different structure. In the light of criteria devised for the NRI Bonds Scheme namely its non-repatriable nature and a defined time-window for investment, the performance of the Scheme cannot be considered to be poor.

West German Development Aid

302. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will be a major recipient of West German Development Aid during 1989;